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THE FLAG*

" Very well," said Fritz, " but does it follow that this islet is an isolated point ? Why should it not be part of some group of islands lying to the north, east, or west ? "

" What group, my dear Fritz ? " the captain retorted, " If, as everything goes to show, we are in Australian or New Zealand waters here, there is no group of islands in this part of the Pacific."

" Because the charts don't show any, does it follow that there aren't any ? " Fritz remarked.

" The position of New Switzerland was not known and yet---"

" Quite true," Harry Gould replied; " that was because it lies outside the track of shipping.

Very seldom, practically never, do ships cross that bit of the Indian Ocean where it is situated, whereas to the south of Australia the seas are very busy, and no island, or group of any size, could possibly have escaped the notice of navigators."

" There is, still the possibility that we are somewhere near Australia," Frank went on,

" A distinct possibility," the captain answered,

" and I should not be surprised if we are at its

^south-west extremity, somewhere near
Cape Leeu-
whu In that case we should have
to fear the
ferocious Australian
natives,"
" And so," the boatswain remarked, "
it is better